



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.241/L.1  
26 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING  
COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION  
OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Organizational session  
26-29 January 1993  
Agenda item 2

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### Schedule of meetings for future sessions

#### Note by the Secretariat

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification, in addition to an organizational session, should hold five substantive sessions, each lasting for two weeks, which would be held at Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Paris.

It also decided that the dates of those sessions would be determined by the Committee at its organizational session, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other related meetings.

At its organizational session, the Committee is to consider the schedule of meetings for future sessions. After consultations with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat, it is proposed that the sessions in 1993 and 1994 be scheduled as follows:

#### (a) Sessions to be held during 1993:

24 May-4 June 1993 (Nairobi);

13-24 September 1993 (Geneva);

(b) Sessions to be held in 1994:

17-28 January 1994 (New York);

21-31 March 1994 (Geneva);

Early June 1994 (Paris).

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES  
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR  
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA  
Organizational session  
26-29 January 1993  
Agenda item 3

ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST  
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work.
2. Information-sharing:
  - (a) Desertification, drought and the global environment;
  - (b) The causes and general extent of dryland degradation;
  - (c) Social and economic dimensions;
  - (d) Pattern of current donor programmes;
  - (e) Successes and failures in current national programmes: a regional and subregional perspective;
  - (f) Lessons from the experiences of developed countries;

- (g) Some possible elements of a new strategy to promote sustainable development in countries experiencing drought and desertification.
- 3. General discussion of the format and content of the international convention to combat desertification, particularly in Africa.
- 4. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:
  - (a) Special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;
  - (b) Trust fund for the negotiations process.
- 5. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second substantive session.
- 6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first substantive session.

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT  
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES  
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AFRICA

Organizational session  
26-29 January 1993  
Agenda item 3

### ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Organization of work.
2. Sharing of technical information and assessments, including the following elements:
  - (a) Desertification, drought and the global environment;
  - (b) Causes, general extent and consequences of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas;
  - (c) Social and economic dimensions;
  - (d) Pattern of bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes;
  - (e) Experiences with international, regional, subregional and national programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in developing countries;

(f) Experiences of developed countries;

(g) Some possible elements of a new strategy to promote sustainable development in countries experiencing drought and desertification.

3. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

4. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds:

(a) Special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries;

(b) Trust fund for the negotiating process.

5. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second substantive session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first substantive session.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN  
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS  
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA  
Organizational session  
26-29 January 1993  
Agenda item 2

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Proposed amendments to the draft rules of procedure

The following paragraphs of the draft rules of procedure for the Committee, contained in document A/AC.241/2, have been amended to read as follows:

Rule 9

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Secretary-General of the Committee. He, or his representative, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary organs.

Rule 29

Subject to rule 27, decisions of the Committee and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

Rule 49

Non-governmental organizations invited to the Committee may make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process, and taking into account, in particular, decisions 1/1 and 2/1

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English

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concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions. 1/

Notes

1/ For the text of the decisions, see documents A/45/46, annex I, and A/46/48, annex I.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN  
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS  
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Organizational session  
26-29 January 1993  
Agenda item 4

### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The organizational session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 26 to 29 January 1993. The meeting was convened in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and desertification, particularly in Africa".

##### B. Election of officers

2. The Bureau of the Committee, as elected at its 1st and \_\_\_ meetings, on 26 and \_\_\_ January, was as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. René Valéry Mongbe (Benin)  
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)  
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: (to be elected)

C. Adoption of the agenda

3. At its 1st meeting, on 26 January 1993, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the first substantive session
4. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its organizational session.

D. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

(to be included)

5. The following United Nations organs and bodies were represented:

(to be included)

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

(to be included)

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

(to be included)

8. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

(to be included)

E. Documentation

9. The documents before the Committee at its organizational session are listed in annex — to the present report (annex to be included).

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## II. TRUST FUND AND SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND

10. At its 4th meeting, on 28 January, the Committee held a discussion on the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund. During the discussion on this item, many Member States announced their voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund for the participation of developing countries, as well as to the Trust Fund for preparatory activities. Those Member States that were not in a position to announce their contributions indicated their intention to do so as soon as their internal procedures would permit.

11. The Chairman urged Member States to do their best to contribute to these two Funds in a timely fashion so as to enable the Secretary-General to discharge his responsibilities efficiently, particularly with regard to the participation of developing countries, as well as the preparatory activities of the Secretariat.

## III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

12. The Committee considered the provisional agenda for its first substantive session at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 28 and 29 January.

13. At the 5th meeting, on 29 January, the Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for its first substantive session, as contained in document A/AC.241/L.2/Rev.1 (see annex \_\_ (to be included)).

## IV. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

### Rules of procedure

14. At its 4th meeting, on 28 January, the Committee adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in document A/AC.241/2 and amended in document A/AC.241/L.3. (The rules of procedure, as adopted, were subsequently issued in document A/AC.241/3.)

### Subsidiary organs

15. At its 4th meeting, on 28 January, the Committee decided to establish two working groups to assist in its work.

16. At its 5th meeting, on 29 January, the Committee elected the following officers of the working groups:

(to be completed)

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Schedule of meetings for future sessions

17. At its 4th meeting, on 28 January, the Committee decided on the following schedule of meetings for its future sessions:

(a) Sessions to be held during 1993

24 May-3 June 1993 (Nairobi)  
13-24 September 1993 (Geneva)

(b) Sessions to be held in 1994

17-28 January 1994 (New York)  
21-31 March 1994 (Geneva)  
Early June 1994 (Paris)

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